



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Jean-Louis BOYER et al.

Group Art Unit: 3641

Application No.: 09/101,508

Examiner: T. Chambers

Filed: September 30, 1998

Docket No.: 100983

For: PROGRAMMABLY TIMABLE PRIMING DEVICE

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**GROUP 3600**

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the October 10, 2002 Office Action and the personal interview conducted on November 14, 2002, reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested. Claims 14-31 are pending.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' attorney by Examiner Chambers during the November 14, 2002 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Claims 14-17, 19, 27, 28, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Boucher, U.S. Patent No. 5,476,044 and claims 17, 19 and 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Boucher in view of Jarrott et al. (hereinafter "Jarrott"), U.S. Patent No. 4,632,031. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As agreed to during the personal interview, Boucher fails to disclose or suggest a priming device for a detonator, comprising timing means for timing the action of a firing element of a primer, an electrical power supply that provides a first power intensity to the

timing means, and power generating means, the power generating means for generating, through a resistive circuit, a second power intensity sufficient to actuate the firing element upon expiration of a timing interval as determined by the timing means, the first power intensity from the power supply not being sufficient to actuate the firing element as recited in claim 14 and as similarly recited in claim 16.

In addition, Applicants submit that Jarrott fails to overcome the deficiencies of Boucher as discussed above, with regard to claim 16. For at least this reason, the combination of Boucher and Jarrott, fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claims 17, 19 and 22-26, which depend from claim 16.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Boucher, either alone or in combination with Jarrott, fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claims 14 and 16, as well as all the features of claims 15 and 30, and 17-29 and 31, which depend from claims 14 and 16, respectively. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 14-31 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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WPB:MMI/ccs

Date: November 26, 2002

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